

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is requested under Rule 116 in order to place the claims in better form for appeal, by eliminating a formal issue which has been raised in the final Office Action. In the Advisory Action mailed January 13, 2004, the Examiner has refused entry of the previous amendment under Rule 116 (submitted December 9, 2003), noting the double inclusion of the words "against said inner guide surfaces," a typographical error. (This point can be verified by comparison of the most recent previous version of Claim 1, which appeared in the amendment submitted September 23, 2002.) By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have corrected the typographical error (as well as a grammatical error in the previous paragraph). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment is entitled to entry under Rule 116, because it places the claims in better condition for appeal, eliminating a formal issue which had previously been raised with regard to Claim 1. (See paragraph 1 in the Office Action mailed August 9, 2003.)

By way of further explanation, Applicants note that the substance of Claim 1 as amended herein is identical to the substance of Claim 1 as it appeared in the September 23, 2002 amendment. Referring in particular to page 3 of that amendment, it can be seen that the word "which" in the second line of the paragraph in question refers to the words "inner guide surfaces" immediately

following, which were inserted solely to avoid a possible antecedent basis ambiguity with regard to the word “which”. Thus, this paragraph (which has been divided into two paragraphs in the present amendment under Rule 116) refers on the one hand to “inner guide surfaces of the side walls of the latching housing”, and to “planar side surfaces of the latching wedges” on the other hand. The paragraph in question, as contained in the September 23, 2002 amendment simply recited that the planar side surfaces of the latching wedges are slideably displaceable against the planar inner guide surfaces of the side walls of the latching housing.

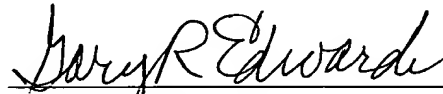
In order to eliminate any possible ambiguity which might reside in this language, in the foregoing amendment, the paragraph in question has been divided into two paragraphs, the first reciting that the fine-positioning guide elements comprise “planar inner guide surfaces of side walls of the latching housing”, and the second reciting that planar side surfaces of the latching wedges are slideably displaceable against the inner guide surfaces. Applicants respectfully submit that this language is clear and definite, and that the foregoing amendment is therefore entitled to entry under Rule 116.

If there are any questions regarding this second amendment under Rule 116 or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be

appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/49847).

Respectfully submitted,



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